

Section I: AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of mapping a travel route based on ~~end-point input~~ starting point, destination and traffic conditions, said method comprising:

receiving input designating a starting point and a destination;

receiving traffic information related to traffic flow conditions between said starting point and said destination;

storing said traffic information in a map database, said map database also including static route information related to available routes between said starting point and said destination; and

processing said static route information and said traffic information for said available routes ~~accessing said mapping database~~ to determine a selected travel route between said starting point and said destination based on a combination of said static route information and said traffic information.

2. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 1 wherein receiving traffic information comprises monitoring a radio frequency at which traffic information is transmitted.

3. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 1 wherein said traffic information is in a computer readable format.

4. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim 1 wherein said storing ~~processing~~ of said traffic information comprises analyzing said received traffic information and providing a traffic change indicium whenever a change is detected in said traffic information relevant to ~~a-current~~ said selected

route.

5. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim 4 and further including detecting a presence of said traffic change indicium wherein a route segment of said selected travel route is automatically recalculated whenever said traffic change indicium is detected.

6. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim 1 wherein determining ~~the~~ of said selected travel route comprises comparing traffic flows on ~~probable~~ said available routes and ~~selecting a~~ determining said selected travel route based on user time and distance preferences.

7. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim 1 wherein ~~the~~ said selected travel route is audibly made available to a user.

8. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim 1 wherein ~~the~~ said selected travel route is made available to a user in a visual display.

9. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium containing a computer program, said medium being selectively operable when read by a reading device for providing program signals for mapping a travel route based on ~~end-point-input~~ starting point, destination and traffic conditions, said program signals being selectively operable for:

enabling a receipt of input designating a starting point and a destination;

enabling a receipt of traffic information related to relatively

current traffic flow conditions between said starting point and said destination;

storing said traffic information in a map database, said map database also including static route information related to available routes between said starting point and said destination; and

effecting a processing said static route information and said traffic information for said available routes ~~accessing said mapping database~~ to determine a selected travel route between said starting point and said destination based on a combination of said static route information and said traffic information.

10. (Original) The medium as set forth in claim 9 wherein receiving traffic information comprises monitoring a radio frequency at which traffic information is transmitted.

11. (Original) The medium as set forth in claim 9 wherein said traffic information is in a computer readable format.

12. (Currently Amended) The medium as set forth in claim 9 wherein ~~storing~~ said processing of said traffic information comprises analyzing said received traffic information and providing a traffic change indicium whenever a change is detected in said traffic information relevant to ~~a current~~ said selected travel route.

13. (Currently Amended) The medium as set forth in claim 12 and further including detecting a presence of said traffic change indicium wherein a route segment of said selected travel route is automatically recalculated whenever said traffic change indicium is detected.

14. (Currently Amended) The medium as set forth in claim 9 wherein determining ~~the~~ said selected travel route comprises comparing traffic flows on probable routes and selecting a said selected travel route based on user time and distance preferences.

15. (Currently Amended) The medium as set forth in claim 9 wherein ~~the~~ said selected travel route is audibly made available to a user.

16. (Currently Amended) The medium as set forth in claim 9 wherein ~~the~~ said selected travel route is made available to a user in a visual display.

17. (Currently Amended) An information processing system for mapping a travel route based on ~~user end point input~~ starting point, destination and current traffic conditions, ~~said end point input defining a start point and a destination point for said travel route,~~ said information processing system comprising:

processing means;

input means coupled to said processing means, said input means being arranged for enabling a user to provide said ~~end point input~~ starting point and said destination to said processing means;

storage means coupled to said processing means, said storage means ~~containing a map database~~ containing static route information related to predetermined aspects of available routes between said starting point and said destination, said static route information being accessible by said processing means;

receiving means coupled to said storage means, said receiving means being selectively operable for receiving traffic information related to said current travel conditions, and said system being operable for storing said traffic information in said map database, said processing means being selectively operable for providing said a selected travel route based upon said ~~end point input~~ starting point, said destination and a combination of said static route information and said traffic information.

18. (Currently Amended) The information processing system as set forth in claim 17 and further including means for communicating said selected travel route to ~~said a~~ user.

19. (Currently Amended) The information processing system as set forth in claim 18 wherein said selected travel route is audibly communicated to said user.

20. (Currently Amended) The information processing system as set forth in claim 18 wherein said selected travel route is visually communicated to said user.

21. (Currently Amended) The information processing system as set forth in claim 18 wherein said selected travel route is communicated to said user both audibly and visually.

22. (Original) A method for automatically updating a selected travel route for a vehicle whenever a change in related traffic conditions is detected, said method comprising:

determining said selected travel route based upon a first traffic condition;

receiving traffic information including a current traffic condition applicable to said selected travel route;

detecting a change from said first traffic condition to said current traffic condition; and

recalculating said travel route based upon said current traffic condition.

23. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 22 wherein said recalculating is accomplished whenever said change exceeds a predetermined threshold value.

24. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 23 wherein said recalculating is accomplished whenever said change exceeds said predetermined threshold value for a predetermined period of time.

25. (Original) A method for automatically updating a selected travel route for a vehicle whenever said vehicle strays from a selected travel route, said method comprising:

determining said selected travel route, said selected travel route comprising a series of travel points along said selected travel route;

receiving current position information related to a current position of said vehicle;

comparing said current position information with said selected travel route; and

recalculating said travel route to provide a new travel route

whenever said current position is not along said selected travel route.

26. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 25 wherein said current position information is received from a global positioning system (GPS).

27. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 26 wherein said current position information is received from said GPS on a continuing basis.

28. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 25 wherein said recalculating is accomplished using said current position as a starting point for said new travel route.

29. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 25 wherein said selected travel route is based upon a first traffic condition, said method further including:

receiving traffic information including current traffic conditions applicable to said selected travel route;

detecting a change in traffic conditions from said first traffic condition to said current traffic condition; and

recalculating said travel route whenever predetermined changes are detected in either said traffic conditions or whenever said current position is not along said selected travel route.